



AMCA EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
"Having fun with old motorcycles"

May 2025

Hello AMCA Europe Members,
This time we feature two local Meets, another episode of 'What's in the Garage' followed by pictures from some more of our new members. We then have a report on the big British bike auction plus beach racing at Margate.

Dunkirk Swap Meet 22 March 2025

This is a Kent village near me with a one day VMCC motorcycle sale. I couldn't find any parts or literature, but did see these interesting bikes:



This is a 350 cc Bridgestone twin project from 1967-70, the last and biggest capacity bike built by the tyre company before stopping motorcycle production. It had a 6-speed gearbox and powerful twin disc two stroke engine, but was expensive compared with competitors and few were sold. This classic British 1962 Velocette was for sale at say \$5500.



And these Moto Guzzi SP1000 models were made only 1978-85 with the big BMW flat twins being more popular:



This 1936 Ariel 500cc twin port overhead valve single was a top bike in its day, and the K for Kent in its registration number shows it as a local bike.



This Coventry Eagle looks like a mid-1930s Villiers engine 250 cc two stroke, with the company folding in 1939:



European Meets

Once again a reminder that our next European Meet is 30/31 May at the American Motorcycle Museum in Raalte, NL. Our theme is Original Paint so please bring out those treasures. And don't forget judged bikes should be pre-registered at the AMCA Website.

I'll be bringing copies of the Harley-Davidson Enthusiast magazines 1930-55, and the VL Years, Knucklehead Years and Panhead Years book series, so please let me know if any of these are of interest.

What's in the Garage?

It's my turn again, this time with a 1954 Nimbus.



As always, the technical side interests me. This has a 750 cc 22 bhp overhead cam four cylinder engine with the cylinders in-line. It has shaft drive, a three speed gearbox, and hydraulic front forks, surely among the first. The engine has exposed valve springs and a strap frame, allegedly to save weight but perhaps from a lack of Danish forging and welding capacity. Father Peder Fisker designed the 1920-26 'stovepipe' model, with son Anders Fisker designing this 1934-59 'bumblebee' model, named for its distinctive sound. Many were bought by the Danish army, police and post office, and it is unusual to find a matching numbers bike such as this one. It looks like an original paint Sport model with the high level exhaust, but no Sports were built in 1954, so maybe this is an early factory repaint or a special job to shift bikes when sales were down to a few hundred a year. The company made their own carburetors, magnetos and dynamos, but stopped production in 1959 to make industrial vacuum cleaners and now pressure washers.

Ashford Bike Show 21 April

Another local show, with about a hundred bikes entered. Here are a few which caught my eye.



I know our US readers like to see pictures of Velocettes, so here is a 1961 Venom Thruxton 500, one of the classic British clubman mounts. And next is a 1966 Ducati 250 cc scrambler, apparently a US-spec bike.

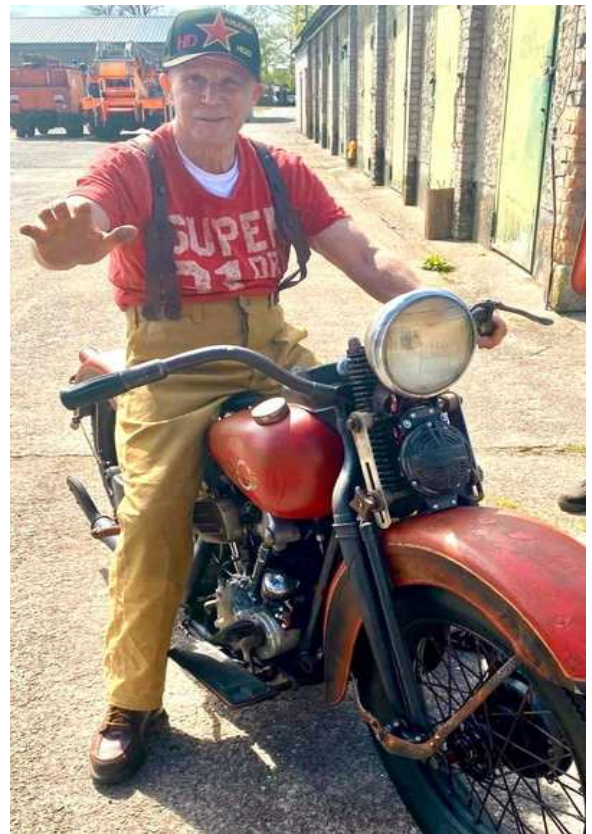


That is a 1951 BSA 125 cc Bantam, apparently in original paint. This is the German DKW125 given to the UK as reparations after WW2, like the 1948 Harley-Davidson 125, but much more successful in the UK with 250,000 sold through 1971, finishing with 175 cc and a four-speed gearbox.

And here is a 1939 New Imperial 150 cc. This was a Birmingham-based company active in the Pioneer days, then boosted by lightweight TT wins in the 1920s. In the 1930s they built their own unit-construction engines, but 1939 was their last year.



Finally, this is a rare 1931 Ariel SF31 500 cc 'sloper' two valve ohv, made only in 1931/32 and with an even rarer four valve version also made.



New Members

We welcome two new members from Berlin, Germany. Here is Susen Wittek on her 1959 Panhead, and Klaus Wittek on his 1936 Knucklehead:

Welcome to our great Club! More new member pictures to follow.

And here is Ignacio Diago from Castellon, Spain, with a few words to say:



Hi, I'm Nacho Diago, from Castellón, Spain. I've been passionate about Harley-Davidsons since buying my first bike in 1992. I'm excited to join AMCA Spain, thanks to Carolina's introduction.

I love vintage Harleys and look forward to meeting fellow enthusiasts from around the world. I've been part of the Big Twin Club of Spain for 33 years, where I've served as president and now as vice president. Our club hosts Spain's oldest Harley rally, celebrating its 40th anniversary this September—you're all invited!

Bonham's Auction 26/27 April

This is probably the largest UK motorcycle auction, with 310 lots going over the block at the Stafford bike show. It was similar to the January Mecum auction, with rarities doing well, over-reserved lots not selling, numerous estate sales, and average bikes without reserve selling for modest prices. Translating at £1 = \$1.33 here are a few examples. Top prices went to a 1925 Brough Superior SS 100 fetching \$367k, a 1937 Series A Vincent Rapide at \$242k and a 1988 Carl Fogarty TT-winning Honda VFR750R making \$80k.

Away from this exotica BSA Gold Stars, Vincent Comets, Norton Inters and an Ariel Square Four were fetching \$11k or less, with a 1953 Ariel Red Hunter at \$2.7k and a 1951 BSA Golden Flash 650 at \$4.9k. Ouch. Some Pioneer bikes also went for sensible

money. A 1946 Harley U made \$22k, a 1926 Henderson DeLuxe \$70k, a 1930 Harley D \$13k and a restored 1930 Indian 101 Scout \$38k. Bonhams take an 18% buyers premium after tax, so maybe this was a good time to buy but a poor time to sell. The prices above include buyers premium so hammer prices were that much lower.

Malle Mile 03 May

Malle is a London-based company making luggage, apparel and accessories for motorcycle enthusiasts, and sponsors various events including the Malle Mile at the main beach in Margate in Kent. As you can see, the weather was great with a family audience and a good crowd.



An eighth mile strip was set up on the beach with about 100 bikes racing all day.



About half the bikes were off road types, with the others street registered with numerous 1960s/70s BSAs and Triumphs amongst them.



This BSA special was probably the oldest entrant:



No side stand, no problem:



But the fun had to stop when the tide came in...



2025 Events

Below is our latest timetable for the year. The AMCA events are firm, but some of the others are provisional, and will be updated as more information is received. Please advise me of any corrections, or additional events you would like to see included. Any events cancelled or postponed are marked with an asterisk (*). Please check with the organisers before travelling any distance.

2025 AMCA National Meets

- Jan 31-Feb 01 Music City Chapter, Lebanon TN
- Feb 27-Mar 01 Sunshine Meet, Daytona FL
- Mar 22-23 Omaha Meet, Fremont NE
- Apr 25-26 Perkiomen Chapter, Oley PA
- May 30-31 European Chapter, Raalte NL
- June 06-07 Viking Chapter, St. Paul MN
- June 13-14 Fort Sutter Meet, Dixon CA
- July 17-19 Wauseon Coalition, Wauseon OH
- July 25-27 Yankee Meet, Greenfield MA
- Aug 22-23 Australian Meet, Bulli NSW
- Oct 03-04 Chesapeake Meet, Upperco MD
- Oct 10-11 Southern National, Denton NC

2025 National Road Runs

Apr 22-24 Phoenix Road Runner Chapter, Sierra Vista AZ

May 20-22 Riveter Chapter, Berea KY

June 18-20 Oregon Trail Chapter, Cottage Grove OR

Sep 02-04 Roosevelt Chapter, Detroit Lakes MN

Sep 16-18 Blue Ridge Chapter, Maggie Valley NC

European 2025 Events

Austria

September 02-07 European Bike Week, Faaker See
www.europeanbikeweek.com

Belgium

August 17 Oude Klepper Parade, De Haan

Croatia

June 12-15 European HOG Rally, Medulin
www.harley-davidson.com

Czech Republic

Denmark

May 29-31, Skagen Run, this time Skagen to Copenhagen, for pre-1935 bikes. Details from elleham07@gmail.com

Check. Aug tba Laholm Beach Jutland, pre-1947 beach racing and partying www.romomotorfestival.dk

Finland

January 11 Swap (Rompepäivä) in Jyväskylä 250km north from Helsinki. Mostly Japanese and Eastern Europe bike parts, but some vendors of vintage American and British. For 2026, second weekend in January.

Jan 31-Feb 02 in Helsinki: is said to be the largest motorcycle exhibition in Northern Europe. Some vintage bikes and choppers. More info in English <https://mp.messukeskus.com/?lang=en>

Apr 18-20 Helsinki American car show, with some custom, vintage and modified Harleys.

May 03-04 Classic Motor Show, Lahti, emphasis on vintage cars, but also some old bikes.

May 19. Walkka swap meet, mostly modern H-D and choppers, but some older stuff plus an evening party.

mid-July Flathead Rally, location and date to be confirmed

Late August is the "Pannuralli" meet for Panheads. 60+ km NW of Helsinki.

01 November. Walkka swap meet, mostly modern H-D and choppers, but some older stuff plus an evening party.

France

May 08-11 Euro Festival, Port Grimaud
www.harley-davidson.com

Beach racing pre-1947 cars and bikes in Ouistreham, Normandy. Next one is Sep 24-27 2025.
www.normandybeachrace.com

Germany

January 26 Winter Classic Bike, Ruesselheim
www.diewerkhalle.de

Feb 27-Mar 02 Retro Classics Stuttgart
www.retroclassics.de

April 05-06 Technorama Kassel www.technorama.de

April 25-27 Veterama Hockenheim www.veterama.de

May 03-04 Technorama Ulm www.technorama.de

April 25-28 Retro Classics Stuttgart www.retro-classics.de

May 24-25 Technorama Hildesheim
www.technorama.de

June 19-22 Magic Bike Week, Ruedesheim
magic-bike-ruedesheim.com

August 23 Velodrom Racetrack Darmstadt, board track racing www.vollgas-rennspass.de

September 12-13 Hindenburg Dirt Track racing
hindenbergdirttrack.com

Oct 10-12 Veterama, Mannheim. Biggest European swap meet. www.veterama.de Our AMCA stand is open to all members who want to sell their own parts.

Italy

Jan 24-26 Motor Bike Expo Verona, custom bikes
www.motorbikeexpo.it

May 09-11 ASI Vintage Vehicle Day www.asifed.it
to be confirmed

May 21-25 FIVA Italian Rally, Emilia Romana, Tuscany www.fiva.org

Latvia

Sep 12-15 Kurland Rally. Details from Juris Ramba at ramoto1992@gmail.com

Netherlands

May 30-31 AMCA European Meet – see you there
www.amca-europe.eu

June 06-08 Silent Gray Fellows International Meet, Oosterhout. 21th meet for pre-1966 American bikes.
www.silentgrayfellows.nl

Nov 02 Silent Gray Fellows swap meet, Chaam
www.silentgrayfellows.nl

Norway

Feb 07-08 Enköping Market for Indian Parts
www.indianklubb.no

June 27-29 Kogsløpet 2025 (*this is the NVMC Norwegian Vintage Motorcycle Club main event*)
Selbu Camping, arrangement hosts are Stjørdal Veteran Motorsykel Club. More info on the event;
www.nvmc.no/ekstra2/ekstra_00/

August 14-17 Indian Summer Rally, Hunderfossen
www.indianklubb.no (tbc)

Poland

Here are the proposed dates for Oldtime Club Poland (OCP) events in 2025.

25-27 April 2025 season opening – Brzeg

15-18 May 2025 North East – Suwałki

04-08 June H-D Super Rally - Bydgoszcz
www.superrally.com

05-07 Sep 2025 Vintage Indian Days Rally

16-19, October 2025. End of the season Bieszczady Mountains

Spain

January 24-26: 17th edition of Jabalinera; Location: Noja, "Cantabria"; www.mcpiston.com

May 23-25: 3rd Centenary Rally for cars and motorcycles up to 1925; Location: Salou (Tarragona); Contact: motos@feva.es

May 30 - June 1: 25th edition of Vuelta Cantabria; Location: "Cantabria" www.mcpiston.com

June 8-14: *Road Run Spain; Small locally organized Road Run with daily tours in Northern Spain/Pyrenees for a limited number of participants.*; Contact: amcaspain@gmail.com

September 13-14: 5th National Meeting of Antique Motorcycles; Location: El Burgo de Osma, Soria; Limited number of participants (organized by FEVA); Contact: motos@feva.es

September 11-14 40th edition Big Twin Club Spain Castellón; Location: Grau de Castellón; bigtwinclub@gmail.com

September 21-28: 38th edition of Pistón Rally; Location: Santander and surrounding areas; Website: www.mcpiston.com

Sweden

To be announced.

Switzerland

March 01 Sam's OTM Swap meet Vianco Arena
Brunegg, AG <https://www.samsotm.ch/>

March 22 Auction Oldtimer Galerie Toffen
<https://www.oldtimergalerie.ch/de/5/20163/?oid=10129&lang=de>

April 05 FAM Oldtimer-Markt swap meet Pratteln

April 05 „Einstellfahrt“ FAM Linthgebiet Airfield
Mollis (ride on airfield for adjustment of vehicles
without registration - not for flying)
[https://linthgebiet.fam-
amv.ch/index.php/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungen-2-
blog/05-04-2025-einstellfahrten-mollis](https://linthgebiet.fam-amv.ch/index.php/veranstaltungen/veranstaltungen-2-blog/05-04-2025-einstellfahrten-mollis)

May 02-04 Goudron Bike Days, Brig VS
<https://www.goudron.ch>

May 03-04 Retromecanika swap meet Palexpo
Geneve <https://retromecanika.ch/>

May 04 Love Ride Switzerland Dübendorf ZH
<https://loveride.ch>

May 18 The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride (in
different cities in Switzerland)
<https://www.gentlemansride.com>

May 30-31 Rock this town Solothurn (rock'n roll
weekend) <https://www.rockthistownsolothurn.com/>

May 30-June 01 Swiss Classic World Luzern
<https://www.swissclassicworld.ch>

May 31 Swiss Classic World Rallye
Luzern <https://rallye.swissclassicworld.ch/details>

June 13-15 Motor Classics
Lenzerheide <https://www.lenzerheidemotorclassics.ch>

June 13-15 Harley Davidson Mountain 4StarWeekend
Arosa [https://www.waldhotel.ch/de/harley-davidson-
mountain-weekend](https://www.waldhotel.ch/de/harley-davidson-mountain-weekend)

June 29 Oldtimertreff
Schwaegalp [https://www.oldtimertreff-
schwaegalp.ch/index.htm](https://www.oldtimertreff-schwaegalp.ch/index.htm)

July 04-05 Hangar Rocking in St.
Stephan <https://www.hangarrockin.com>

July 12-13 Rally Tremola
2025 <https://motoepocaticino.ch/>

August 23-24 Toefftraeff The valley & motorworld
Kemptthal <https://www.toefftraeff.ch/>

August 23-24 Bergsprint Walzenhausen-
Lachen <https://www.bergsprint.ch/>

October 26 Oldtimermesse swap meet St.
Gallen <http://www.oldtimermesse-ch.com/>

November 01 Sam's OTM Swap meet Vianco Arena
Brunegg, AG <https://www.samsotm.ch/>

United Kingdom

April 25-27 Stafford classic bike show and auction
www.staffordclassicbikeshows.com

June 08 Banbury Run, Gaydon, 250 pre-1931 bikes
www.vmcc.net

Aug 01-04 International West Kent Run, 250 runners
at The Friars, Aylesford, ME20 7BX www.vmcc.net

September 05-07 Beaulieu International
Autojumble/Netley Marsh motorcycle jumble
[www.beaulieu.co.uk/weekend-events/international-
autojumble/](http://www.beaulieu.co.uk/weekend-events/international-autojumble/)

Oct 05. Pioneer Run, 350 pre-1915 bikes, Epsom
Downs to Brighton.
www.sunbeam-mcc.co.uk/events/the-pioneer-run

Oct 10-12 Stafford classic bike show and auction
www.staffordclassicbikeshows.com

European Chapter Directors 2025

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Country Ambassadors

In addition to those Directors marked with asterisks (*) above, we also have the following country ambassadors:

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Bobbers. Paul Jung, pjung@wwag.com

Please volunteer if you would like to be representative for a country not mentioned. You just need to know what bike-related events take place in your country, and answer occasional Email questions.

Don't forget to renew your subscriptions at
www.antiquemotorcycle.org

And keep me up to date if you change Email address.

The next newsletter will probably be in June, so please keep sending me articles and photos on bike related items, and safe riding until then.

Stay safe, wishing you happy riding, and best regards,

Steve Slocombe,
President AMCA European Chapter

